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14 August 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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State Dept. review completed

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France-Tunisia: An as yet unpublished French note of 11 August to the Tunisian Government states that Paris is ready to

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[] begin talks on arrangements for a return to "a more normal situation" in Bizerte. [Acting Tunisian Foreign Minister Sahbani has commented privately to the US ambassador in Tunis, however, that he sees "no progress" in the note. This negative reaction as well as Tunis' failure to comment on the French withdrawal of a paratroop regiment from Bizerte suggests that Bourguiba may wish to await the outcome of the 21 August special UN General Assembly before undertaking bilateral negotiations.]

According to Ambassador Gavin in Paris, De Gaulle now seems disposed toward unilateral gestures of appeasement and resumption of bilateral relations with Tunisia, subject to limitations imposed by his military and rightist opposition. Gavin reports that the French Foreign Ministry is more sensitive than De Gaulle to the "UN and international aspects" of the Bizerte dispute, and is displaying "anxiety" to move faster in taking the initiative toward a settlement.

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[] European Common Market: Despite the generally cordial reception given by the European Common Market (EEC) to Britain's 10 August application for membership, officials of the six EEC countries thus far seem disinclined to make major concessions to ease the problems of Britain's entry. Official opinion in Paris remains equivocal, and even Bonn--which has been much more sympathetic to Britain's membership--believes the forthcoming negotiations should not be permitted either to weaken the EEC treaty or to delay EEC decisions on future tariff reductions, farm policy, and other matters. Macmillan has been criticized on the Continent for having been overly cautious in his overture, and there is some feeling in EEC countries that an EEC-UK agreement must be wrapped up quickly if it is to be reached at all.] [] (Backup, Page 5)

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Common Market Likely to Take Tough Position
In Forthcoming Negotiations with UK

[While the final French position on British entry into the EEC depends on De Gaulle, the reaction among the upper levels of the French civil service has been mixed. A ranking official of the Ministry of Economic Affairs told an American Embassy official in Paris recently that there is "no question in his mind" that British membership is "essential" and that the negotiations should be brought quickly to a conclusion. However, a Foreign Ministry official has disputed the view that early agreement is possible and questioned whether London wishes "serious negotiations." Other French officials have said the UK bid would have serious adverse effects on European integration, and one contended he was "almost alone among his colleagues" in believing the British application a good thing.]

[On a number of substantive issues, Bonn and Paris appear to be in basic agreement. According to the American Embassy in Bonn, there is virtual unanimity among German officials that the "integrity" of the EEC treaty must be maintained and that the goal of European unification must be preserved. German opinion is undecided as to whether the EEC should proceed with scheduled tariff reductions while the talks with London go on but, according to one official, it is the consensus that if no agreement is in sight by the end of the year, the EEC should proceed with its tariff dismantling.]

[The apparent evolution in the last few weeks in West Germany's attitude toward the problem of integrating the EEC market for farm products is particularly revealing. Because of strong protectionist sentiment among German farmers, Bonn has been blocking EEC agreement on a common agricultural policy, which many observers consider essential to the EEC's future. There has been considerable concern that London might support Bonn in delaying an agreement even longer, especially since Macmillan has contended that, in applying for membership now, London could still influence the EEC's farm program. However, American Embassy observers believe Bonn is prepared to come to grips with the farm problem as soon as the September]

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[elections are over and will want to negotiate with the UK on the basis of farm policy which has already been agreed to in the EEC.]

[The EEC Commission, whose "opinion" must be given before the negotiations with Britain can open, is also likely to oppose major concessions to Britain. The Commission generally regards itself as the guardian of the EEC and is already on record as believing any applicant for membership must accept all treaty provisions and all decisions thus far taken pursuant to it. Article 237 of the EEC treaty, under which Britain applied for membership, provides for treaty "adaptations"--which, in the Commission's view, are more restrictive in meaning than "amendments."]

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